

column as the active cell and within a range of N cells from the active cell, wherein N is an integer, and (4) cells within the same row as the active cell and within a range of N

10 cells from the active cell, wherein N is an integer;

defining a partial data entry within the active cell;

identifying a matching completed data item from within said list of completed data items that corresponds to said partial data entry;

displaying said matching completed data item as a suggested completion

15 command for said partial data entry;

receiving an acceptance command in association with said suggested completion; and

in response to said acceptance command, storing said partial data entry with said suggested completion within the active cell.

40. The method of claim 39, further comprising:

receiving a command pertinent to said suggested completion; and

operating on said suggested completion in accordance with said command.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein said command is a user response and said operating operation further comprises:

if said response contains a modified partial data item, verifying said suggested completion comprises said modified partial data item;

5 if said response is a rejection of said suggested completion, displaying said partial entry; and

if said response is a command to exit said edit mode, clearing the active cell.

42. The method of claim 39, wherein said identifying a list of completed data items operation further comprises:

retrieving a plurality of completed data items from said search region within the spreadsheet to form an associated list of completed data items;

5 filtering said associated list of completed data items to generate a filtered list; and
sorting said filtered list to generate said list of completed data items.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein said search region within the spreadsheet is positionally based on the active cell and said identifying a list of completed data items operation further comprises selecting a block of contiguous cells, said block being coterminous with the active cell.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein said block is confined to one of the columns of cells within the spreadsheet, said column containing the active cell.

45. The method of claim 43, wherein said block is confined to one of the rows of cells within the spreadsheet, said row containing the active cell.

46. The method of claim 42, wherein said filtering operation further comprises removing surplus duplicated completed data items from said associated list of completed data items.

47. The method of claim 42, wherein said filtering operation further comprises:

removing completed data items that are not duplicated in said associated list of completed data items; and

5 removing surplus duplicated completed data items from said associated list of completed data items.

48. The method of claim 42, wherein each of said completed data items comprises at least one glyph, and said filtering operation further comprises removing completed data items that contain less than N glyphs, where N is an integer greater than one.

49. The method of claim 42, wherein said completed data items comprises formatting information, and said filtering operation further comprises removing completed data items that do not comprise a specific formatting information.

50. The method of claim 39, wherein said identifying a list of completed data items operation further comprises:

defining a mask comprising said partial data entry;

5 searching said list of completed data items for at least one matching data item corresponding to said mask; and

in response to finding at least one said matching data item, equating said suggested completion to said matching data item.

51. The method of claim 39, wherein said identifying a list of completed data items operation further comprises:

defining a mask comprising said partial data entry;

5 searching said list of completed data items for at least one matching data item corresponding to said mask; and

in response to finding more than one of said matching data items, deferring identification of said suggested completion.

52. The method of claim 39, wherein said identifying a list of completed data items operation further comprises:

defining a mask comprising said partial data entry;

searching said list of completed data items for at least one matching data item

5 corresponding to said mask; and

in response to not finding said matching data item, disabling any further searches of said list of completed data items for the active cell.

53. The method of claim 52, further comprising re-enabling searches of said list of completed data items for the active cell.

54. The method of claim 39, wherein said displaying operation further comprises replacing said partial data entry in the active cell with said suggested completion.

55. The method of claim 42, wherein said displaying operation further comprises distinguishing a first portion of said suggested completion that comprises said partial data item from a second portion of said suggested completion that does not comprise said partial data entry.

56. The method of claim 39, further comprising operating on said suggested completion in accordance with said acceptance command to perform a case conversion, said case conversion comprising an adjustment of the case of said partial entry to correspond to the case of said suggested completion.

57. A method for completing a partial data entry for an active cell of a spreadsheet having a plurality of cells defining a grid of rows and columns, the method comprising:

invoking an edit mode for the active cell;

5 identifying a list of completed data items from a search region within the spreadsheet, said search region including cells within the same column as the active cell;

defining a partial data entry within the active cell;

identifying a matching completed data item from within said list of completed data items that corresponds to said partial data entry;

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